Haiti - A Natural Disaster?

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions.

STORY

**Island Nation of Haiti Reels After Earthquake Causes 'Enormous' Damage**

01/13/2010

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june10/haiti_01-13.html>

Questions using the text

1. **What happened in Haiti January 12, 2010?**

**Haiti experienced a horrible earthquake which was 7.0. Haitians were left to live in tents and savage for food and medicine from anywhere because they many were sick and left homeless. Many were killed from the earthquake and injuried.**

1. **Why did so many buildings collapse?**

Haiti has struggled for decades with political instability and natural disasters, 60 percent of buildings were shoddily built and unsafe in normal circumstances, causing mass casualties in the quake according to the mayor of Port-au-Prince.

1. **What is the relationship between Haiti and the United States?**

President Obama extended "the deep condolences and unwavering support" of the American people and pledged "full support" for rescue and humanitarian assistance. Already 10,000 U.S. military personal have arrived or are on their way to distribute food and water, and are providing security for the relief effort. U.S. military officials are working to open up the ports in Haiti to bring funnel in more food and badly needed gasoline

1. **How can Americans help the situation in Haiti?**
2. **What happened in Haiti in 1804?**

Haiti was created in 1804, after the world's first successful black slave rebellion led by Jean-Jacques Dessalines against France.

1. **Who was “Papa Doc?”**
2. **Who was Jean Bertrand Aristide?**
3. **What is the Gonave microplate?**

**Extended Tasks**

1. **Watch the Video and then explain exactly the causes of the Earthquake in Port au Prince. You can add any images you can find.**
2. **Why Did So many People Die in Haiti?**

**The devastating earthquakes that hit China on 12 May 2008, Italy on 6 April 2009 and Haiti in January 2010 all measured above 6.0 and took many lives. But why was the human cost so much greater for Haiti?**

**Use the article below to answer this question in a number of points. You will need to add data to help back up your answer.**

[**http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8510900.stm**](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8510900.stm)